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CHIPS program does is to allow people who are in the middle class to get state assistance for medical expenses which they can't get coverage in the marketplace from insurance for, though they've tried repeatedly, and allows them a mechanism to pay for those expenses with assistance from the state now...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...without a depletion of assets requirement. It allows people who have sick children or sick individuals to stay in the middle class, receive state assistance, and not have an asset depletion mechanism. That may create in your mind an equity problem. Certainly we treat people differently. But if I had to say ultimately what I think is going on there, I think that's it. And, by the way, I think that's not alone in many of the things we do in state government. What is unacknowledged in a lot of the work that we do is its desire to protect the middle class from staying in the...to allow them to continue to stay in the middle class when they're threatened. And this is an example of that. We almost always think of the safety net as being applied to people that have fallen out...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis, your time is up. Senator Beutler, you'd be recognized to speak.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis, just...today is perhaps not the day for all this philosophy, because we're not going to do in the program today or discuss it in its ultimate implications and costs, I don't suspect. But in any event, it gets me back to something I've always felt strongly about, and that is that one of the problems with government is that in order to build coalitions to do certain things, we start helping more and more of the middle class. And as we do that, government becomes incredibly burdensome for everybody. And that if we started to...and that perhaps the best way to help the middle class is to cut out all the programs for the middle class and decrease their taxes and thereby re-establish the system and the status of government as the entity that's going to help the very bottom who can't help themselves rather than helping everybody in the world on one favorite program or another. So much for today's philosophy.